

From: Peter Difatta
To: Microsoft ATR
Date: 12/13/01 3:37pm
Subject: No subject was specified.

Renata Hesse
Antitrust Division
U. S. department of Justice

Dear Ms. Hesse:

I'm appalled that the Microsoft antitrust suit is being watered down on the basis of national efficiency because of current global conflicts. From my viewpoint, this is the most significant antitrust suit to have been filed in the last 60 years and it shouldn't be soft peddle.

I'm just an average consumer, and what bothers me is that I have little choice when buying computer products. I don't like Microsoft products or the way the company conducts business and try to avoid them, but because of the stance of laissez faire the government took years ago and because of misguided legal rulings, Microsoft was given the opportunity to develop a monopoly that increases in strength daily, and if given the latitude will continue to extend its tentacles thereby weakening the economic functioning of our nation. Microsoft is a predator and should be stopped. A perfect example is Microsoft's intention, even after last years ruling that Microsoft was truly a monopoly, they intended to allow their web browser to replace existing adds on a web page with ones of their own choosing. Doesn't that say something right there!

Microsoft, because of its monopolistic power, has hindered the development of the computer industry. It makes inferior products and stymies innovation. The nation (and the world) would have been much further along if Microsoft's predatory tactics had been stopped earlier.

I believe that a "standard operating system" shouldn't be owned by any one company and that to truly break up this insidious monopoly, the government should work toward removing the basic operating system that seems to be a standard away from Microsoft's control. This source code should be free to all computer makers. This could be done fairly, to appropriately compensate Microsoft and within an acceptable time frame.

Think of this approach in this regard. When television was developing, there were numerous scanning systems developed by several companies all incompatible with each other. For the television industry to develop, a common system had to be agreed upon to be used by all. Therefore the industry developed and matured without any one company having a great advantage over any other. How would it be, that in order to produce and broadcast a new television program, one would have to purchase scanning technology software to be able to broadcast your program. And new

versions of it would be coming out on a regular basis so even old programs would constantly have to be upgraded? The end user would have to buy the technology too. That's exactly what Microsoft does. And unlike pharmaceutical drugs where patents run out after so many years and then become available to any manufacturer, Microsoft is able to change it's operating system slightly to maintain the monopoly. This needs to be changed.

It is highly important for the future of the industry that other companies as well as average consumers like myself be given a fair chance. And if we aren't, you will still have continued lawsuits about this problem.

This is an issue that to me is more important than terrorist attacks. I can to a reasonable degree with caution and awareness defend myself against terrorist activity. But Microsoft is everywhere and almost has the ability to control everything you read, hear or see. Take MSNBC, for instance. I can't isolate myself from a monopoly that is already too powerful that it may be too late. But, that's what the courts are for. Please use your power to correct this error that has gone on for too long. Institute the most comprehensive remedies discussed. Even that won't be enough.

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